

CBPBA Coastal Bend Prescribed Burn Association

February 2010 Newsletter

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You may submit items for inclusion in future newsletters by emailing them to ljones@hrbizmall.com

CBPBA WEBSITE NOW ON LINE:

<http://www.prescribedburn.org>

BURN EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE FOR RENT

CBPBA has a fully equipped burn trailer available for rent at a very nominal fee. Virtually all the equipment needed to conduct a safe burn is included except for ATVs and other vehicles. The Nature Conservancy also rents burn equipment. Visit our website or go directly to the Rental page here: http://www.prescribedburn.org/prescribed_burning_resource/s/rent_burn_equipment.html

2010 CBPBA ANNUAL MEETING, DINNER AND ELECTION

Mark your calendar now for Tuesday, February 23, 7:00PM. We will meet in the meeting room at **Tuttle's Grocery in Woodsboro**, 214 Second Street, right in front of the water tower. NOTE: this is a location change from earlier notices.

We will elect new Board Members and Tim Reinke, with NRCS Victoria Office, will present "Prescribed Burning - Historical Frequency and Impact of Fire on the Coastal Prairie and Rio Grande Plains"

Cost is \$6 per person and **reservations are requested** so we can determine the number of meals to reserve. (you are welcome without reservations but you may not get a meal). Contact Larry at 361-362-0430 or at ljones@prescribedburn.org.

We will be electing eleven Board Members. CBPBA has a 12 member board, but one position is not up for re-election this year. Nominations will be accepted from the floor, or if you are interested in running for a position on the board please let Larry know (361-362-0430) before the meeting. The people listed below have agreed to run for the positions shown. Additional nominations are welcome for any of these positions.

Current Nominations For 2010 CBPBA Board Member Positions

Three Year positions:

1. Kirk Feuerbacher – Biologist, McFaddin Enterprises
2. Larry Jones – Rancher & owner Hunting & Recreation Business Mall
3. Gary Homerstad – Independent Wildlife Biologist/Retired TPWD
4. Scott Mitchell – Wildlife Biologist, Private Ranch/ex-TPWD Biologist

Two Year positions

5. Chico Cravens – Rancher, Refugio County
6. Tom Keller – Rancher, Mineral, Bee County
7. Stan Reinke – Rancher, Independent Ranch Consultant, Retired NRCS
8. Charles Bonner – Corpus Christi Resident, Karnes County Rancher

One Year Positions

9. Lynn Drawe – Chairman, State of Texas Prescribed Burn Board
10. James McKibben – Attorney and Landowner/Rancher
11. Charles Patton – Austwell Area Rancher

CUERO BURN SCHOOL REPORT

104 people attended our February 10 burn school in Cuero, a record attendance for us. Typical schools have 25 to 50 attendees. Partnering with the DeWitt

CBPBA OFFICERS

President

Kirk Feuerbacher
361-220-2520
Victoria Co.

Vice President

Jim McKibben
361-882-6611
Nueces Co.

Secretary & Webmaster

Larry Jones
361-362-0430
Bee Co.

Treasurer

Chico Cravens
361-526-1552
Refugio Co.

CBPBA DIRECTORS

Lynn Drawe
361-364-2643
San Patricio Co.

Tom Keller
361-375-2924
Bee Co.

Gary Homerstad
361-575-8007
Victoria Co.

Stan Reinke
361-570-0228
Victoria Co.

Ryan Vice
713-817-3601
Aransas County

ADVISORS TO THE BOARD

Clifford Carter
361-576-9296
Victoria Co.

County Wildlife Association was part of the reason for the excellent attendance, and part of it was due to people needing CEU Credits for their Pesticide Applicators License.

The classroom portion of the school extended well into the afternoon. The demo burn had to be postponed due to the weather – mainly rain, wet fuels, and low level smoke dispersion winds. The burn will be held at a future date when conditions are right. Attendees will be notified by email where possible, and it will also be reported in the NOTICES section of our web site and in the burn calendar.



DIFFERENCES IN SUMMER AND WINTER BURNS

By Clifford Carter, Advisor to the CBPBA Board

The Coastal Bend Area of Texas, as well as most of South Texas, has two seasons when landowners can burn – summer and winter. The summer burning season in the Coastal Prairie area generally runs from August 1 through about September 10. The summer burn season depends upon rainfall amounts and when it fell. On the average, dry weather begins in June and grasses begin to dry and go dormant. Too much rainfall and the grasses remain green and will not burn. Usually a burn ban must be in place for conditions to be dry enough for successful summer burning.

The winter burning season begins in December and usually extends through the first week of March. A hard freeze will usually make grasses dormant enough to carry a fire. If the weather is cold enough to kill the upper grass leaves the pastures can be burned even during wet winters. During some mild winters, especially during wet and mild winters, pastures may remain too green to burn.

If conditions allow burning in summer, there are some facts you should keep in mind:

- Summer burns are extremely hot and are very hard on burn crews. Four-wheelers and ATVs should be used to make all crew members mobile. Crews should drink plenty of liquids.
- Extremely hot weather often causes thunder storms to pop up near a burn. These thunder storms, if close enough, may cause a dramatic shift in wind direction for a short period of time. This may turn a back-fire into a head-fire.
- Summer burns will often kill some brush species because of the intensity and heat generated by burning in the summer. Woody plants burned in the summer will not usually grow again until late the next spring.

CBPBA LOGO CAPS NOW AVAILABLE



Standard and X Large sizes available, mesh and solid backs. \$10 donation each. Get yours at the Annual Meeting.

HOW TO JOIN CBPBA

Join CBPBA by sending your check for \$25 (annual dues) along with the completed application on the mailing label page of this newsletter to CBPBA, P. O. Box 447, Beeville, TX 78104.

- Pastures burned in the summer do not have enough time to grow a grass plant thick enough to be used as nesting cover by quail. Summer burns do provide exceptional quail brood rearing areas for quail.
- Pastures burned in the summer will grow a higher proportion of cool season grasses the following winter.

The winter burning season is usually longer and conditions more favorable for the burn crew. Some facts about winter burns:

- Winter burns should be started as early as possible because the inversion layer starts dropping as the temperature begins to drop in the late afternoon. This keeps the smoke from rising and you can easily put a lot of smoke where you do not want it, like across highways, in towns, etc.
- Winter burns promote warm season vegetation. These are plants that start growing in the spring and stop in the fall. Most of our native grasses fit in this category.
- The winter burn season is generally longer.
- Fine fuel (grass) is usually drier in the winter than in the summer and contains less green matter.
- Winter burns seldom have enough grass cover the following spring to provide nesting cover for quail, but the high quality green roughage, early seed crops, and the ease in which birds can find seeds on the ground make winter burn pastures excellent feeding and brood rearing areas for quail.

In Conclusion:

1. Both summer and winter burns remove excessive, low quality vegetation.
2. Both promote secondary plant succession which is the natural method for improving the quality of plants that should occur on the area.
3. Both burn seasons kill unwanted brush seedlings and adversely affect larger shrubs and trees by keeping them from producing seed for two years.
4. Larger trees and shrubs are often top killed which forces them to re-sprout from the roots, and drastically reduces the amount of water and nutrients they remove from the soil.

2010 CBPBA Membership Dues Renewal Notice

Dues were due January 1, 2010.

If you have not renewed yet please

send your check for \$25, made out to:

CBPBA, P. O. Box 447, Beeville, TX 78104

Coastal Bend Prescribed Burn Association
P. O. Box 447
Beeville, TX 78104



Coastal Bend Prescribed Burn Association

New Member Application

Please print carefully so we can read your information

Land owner's name: _____ Ranch name: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone number: _____ FAX number: _____

EMAIL Address: _____

My property is located in _____ County(s)

ANNUAL DUES (per calendar year) are \$25.

Make checks payable to CBPBA and mail to P. O. Box 447, Beeville, Texas, 78104

For more information call 361-362-0430